

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02175 210724Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
/052 W

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R 201444Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0650
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2175

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: EMPLOYERS RAISE ANTE

REF: STOCKHOLM 2149

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, EMPLOYERS' GROUP (SAF) DECIDED ON WEDNESDAY TO LOCK OUT SOME 200,000 WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS, ABOUT HALF OF PTK'S MEMBERSHIP FOR TEN DAYS. LOCKOUT IS SCHEDULED TO GO INTO FORCE MAY 26 (NEXT THURSDAY) AND WILL AFFECT WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES BUT LEAVE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION FOR PUBLIC UNDISTURBED. PTK IS REPORTED TO BE CONTEMPLATING A COUNTER-MOVE--EITHER TO CALL OUT ITS REMAINING 200,000 MEMBERS OR JUST 1,000 COMPUTER OPERATORS. LATTER MIGHT FORCE A LARGE PART OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO SHUT DOWN AND SERIOUSLY HAMPER GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.

2. LO (BLUE-COLLAR NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER) AND PTK HAVE WRITTEN A JOINT LETTER TO ALL OF COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PARTIES
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WITH DEMAND THAT EACH DECLARE IMMEDIATELY WHERE IT STANDS IN RELATION TO LABOR CONFLICT. UNCONNECTED WITH LETTER, LABOR MINISTER PER AHLMARK, IN ONE OF RARE STATEMENTS SINCE CRISIS BEGAN, ASSERTED THAT GOS WOULD TAKE NO LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PREVENT LOCKOUT. ASSURING ONLY THAT MEDIATING COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO SEEK AGREEMENT, HE SAID, "GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO LIMIT THE FREEDOM AND

RESPONSIBILITY THE PARTIES HAVE. WE WILL NOT HAVE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED WAGE NEGOTIATIONS." THIS REPRESENTED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LINE THAN ONE TAKEN SOME DAYS AGO BY FINANCE MINISTER GOSTA BOHMAN WHO CONCEDED AFTER PERSISTENT QUESTIONING THAT GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO INTERVENE IN EVENT OF NATIONWIDE STOPPAGE.

3. NEGOTIATORS ARE TAKING BREATHER DURING LONG WEEKEND WHICH BEGAN YESTERDAY. TALKS WILL BEGIN AGAIN ON MONDAY AND INVOLVE MEDIATION TEAM. CHIEF MEDIATOR HAS INDICATED HE WILL BRING SEVERAL FRESH IDEAS TO BARGAINING TABLE.
PERRY

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